THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Besides High Power TV transmitter (permanent set up) at Bhuj, which is presently under implementation in Gujarat, 5 other locations in the State have been tentatively identified for installation of HPTs subject to availability of funds, other infrastrucural facilities and inter-se priorities.

(b) The revised approved capital cost of the HPT, Bhuj is Rs. 875.07 lakhs. The other 5 projects have still to be approved by the competent authority.

(c) and (d) While HPT, Bhuj (permanent set up) is expected to be completed during 1998, the other proposed schemes are expected to be completed in about 4 years' time from the date of sanction of the scheme by the competent authority.

Ill effects of PEM on Children's eye-sight

2309. SHRI LACHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether PEM (Protein Energy Malnutrition) among the people in the country has increased;

(b) the number of children affected by night blindness, a disease caused by Vitamin A deficiency; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent PEM among the children from the poor section of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number oc children affected by night blindness because of vitamin A deficiency is not available. However, surveys carried out by National Nutrition Monitoring Board using prevalence of Bitot spot as an indicator of vitamin A deficiency have shown a decrease from 1.8% in 1975-79 to 0.7 in 1988-90.

(c) The steps taken to prevent PEM among children include provision of supplementary nutrition through ICDS, Mid-day meal programme, provision of Vitamin A and Iron Folic Acid tablets under the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme, National Iodine Deficiency Programme, Pilot Programme for control of Micronutrient mal-nutrition, promotion of exclusive breast feeding and nutrition education. Empowerment of women through facilitating formation of self help groups at village level aimed at income generation leading to better capacity for higher nutrition are some of the additional steps in this direction.

Deficit financing of the Budget

2310. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deficit financing of the budget during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in deficit financing during this period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by Government to decrease and improve the position of deficit financing of the budget?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The details of budget deficit which represents excess of total expenditure (both revenue & capital) over total receipts (both revenue & capital) for the last three years are as under:—

	(Rs. in crore)
1993-94	10960
1994-95	961
1995-96 (RE)	7600

(c) and (d) Need for deficit financing of the budget arises due to excess of total expenditure over total receipts and is met by issue of 91 day Treasury Bills and draw down of cash balance. Budget deficit for 1996-97(BE) has been estimated at Rs. 6578 crore. Government will endeavour to contain the budget deficit in the current year by increasing receipts and controlling expenditure.

Foreign exchange outlay incurred by companies operating satellite TV channels

2311. SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign exchange outlay